

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RM-9242

From: "Robert McCord" <bobmccord@home.com>
To: A7.A7 (WKENNARD)
Date: 7/22/98 8:30pm
Subject: re low power FM

I am forwarding for your perusal my support of the petition on behalf of Low Power FM. This initiative would provide badly needed radio service to under-served areas like Laguna Beach. Many of us are grateful for your thoughtful consideration of this matter, and we urge you to continue to provide balance to the outcome.

Thank you for your time.

Robert McCord
624 Mystic View
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
(949) 497-7450

9/22/98

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JUL 23 1998

From: <speal@usa.net>
To: A7.A7 (WKENNARD)
Date: 7/23/98 1:53pm
Subject: Please free our airwaves

RM-9242

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I'm sure you have heard all of the arguments in support of low-power broadcasting from wide variety of sources. More likely than not, there is little that I can add to the discussion except to give you my own personal perspective on the subject and give my full support to what others have said in other forums. I have read both RM-9208 and RM-9242 and agree with most of the suggestions made within. Although, I do believe there should be more than one channel devoted to community radio (RM-9208 suggested only one) and I do think it would be worthwhile to have lower fees for application than those that are suggested in RM-9242. (In order for this idea to truly blossom, barriers to entry should be reduced as much as possible.)

As to comments from my personal point of view, I will try to be brief and to the point.

* I do personally feel that there is a lack of diversity and quality programming in my area that speaks to me and my community (I use that term to mean both geographic area and common interest.) Corporations have gobbled up and dulled down the radio stations that I used to enjoy and have altered their format to apply to a lowest-common-denominator audience that I do not feel a part of. (I am thinking of 99.1 WHFS in this specific instance. Whereas they used to be experimental and daring in their programming, they now only play "modern rock" "hits" on heavy rotation.) I believe that low power broadcasting could be a great asset in overcoming this corporatization of radio and in giving a voice again to those who are out of the "mainstream" and to those with interests specific to their community. I myself would be interested in starting a micro-broadcasting facility if it were legal, and I am following this issue carefully.

* People need a voice. That is what democracy is all about. As a citizen of a Washington, DC (a city that is ruled by the Federal Government and yet has no voice Congress) I feel especially disenfranchised. Just like cable access shows, community Internet networks, and community news letters have done in the past, I believe low power broadcasting can provide marginalized people with a powerful tool to strengthen their community's voice and allow their needs, beliefs, and values be heard. Isn't it part of the FCC's mandate to help make sure that our communications systems are used as effectively as possible to support our civil society dialogue?

* Whose voice is being heard right now? Of course it is just speculation, but I would hazard to guess that the majority of letters supporting micro-broadcasting come from concerned public citizens, while the majority of letters in opposition come from big, powerful corporations. If true, that should speak volumes about who feels that they don't have a voice, and who wishes to protect their monopoly on it. I would suggest that the voices of concerned citizens are far more important in our society than those of the corporations, and yet they have the least control over the vital resource of our airwaves.

* As a practitioner in the field of international development, I have come across numerous examples of successful community radio projects in other countries throughout the developing world. The ones that are the most successful and appreciated are not those in which a large and powerful outside force talks to the community, but rather those that are owned by the community and are used by community members to establish a dialogue that is relevant to their needs and issues. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Imagine a local community cooperative in the U.S. running a radio station and imagine the sense of empowerment and the new opportunities that would be made available to that community.

At any rate, that is my personal view on the matter, and those are the

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issues that concern me the most in regards to this subject. I hope you will support the legalization of community low power broadcasting, and I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dan Spealman
1615 45th St, NW
Washington, DC 20007
Speal@usa.net

CC: A7.A7 (SNESS,HFURCHTG,MPOWELL,GTRISTAN) , FCCMAIL.SMT...

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RM-9242

From: Kevin Norton <pantherwolf310@hotmail.com>
To: FCCMAIL.SMTPNLM("automated_activism@we-2.com")
Date: 7/23/98 12:31pm
Subject: Kevin Norton says Legalize Micro Radio

This email was generated by a visitor to AUTOMATED ACTIVISM,
located at <http://www.we-2.com/popc/aa.html>.

I urge you to support the legalization of micro radio.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 has resulted in an unprecedented number of radio station mergers and buyouts, consolidating ownership into fewer and fewer hands. This bodes ill for our democracy.

Currently, there are several proposals before the Federal Communications Commission which seek to rescind the FCC's 1979 ban on the licensing of low power radio stations of under 100 watts. In addition, one of these proposals mandates that micro station owners live in the communities they serve, expressly forbidding absentee ownership. I believe that locally owned stations stand a much better chance of giving voice to community concerns, and help to give women and people of color a voice on the airwaves.

These rulemaking proposals are running into stiff opposition from the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), the professional lobbying arm of corporate-owned broadcast conglomerates, which has been stridently opposed to micro radio.

While the NAB cites signal interference as the reason for its opposition, there is little evidence that micro station signals interfere with commercial stations.

What the NAB really fears is competition for listeners from community based stations that offer more than a bland diet of commercials, weather, traffic reports and market researched play lists.

I encourage you to support the legalization and licensing of micro radio stations up to 100 watts. This is a voice which the American people sorely need.

Sincerely,
Kevin Norton
Madison Heights, MI
pantherwolf310@hotmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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